

## GASOLINE FUMES KILL PRESIDENT REA'S AID

General Assistant to Pennsylvania Railroad Head Found Dead Beside Auto

Oswald J. De Rouse, forty-nine years old, general assistant to President Rea of the Pennsylvania Railroad, died from tetanic convulsions overrunning his automobile in a small garage at Wissahickon avenue and Chestnut streets, Germantown. The daughter of the garage owner, Enza Siedle, discovered the body lying beside the car soon after he had expired. It is believed he was unaffected by the vapor just before he had started most of his work on the car preparatory to taking it out.

A new license tag, which the Regent evidently had been trying to fasten on the rear of the machine just as he was overcome, was near his right hand as lie lay on the floor of the garage.

Miss Siedle, unable to arouse him, quickly ran for help. Dr. Robert J. Cummins, 5336 Greene street, and Dr. J. Blehmert, of the Germantown Hospital, were summoned, as was also the ambulance from St. Timothy's Hospital, equipped with a pulmotor. The two physicians applied resuscitators and used the pulmotor until it was determined that he was dead.

After about an hour Doctor Cummins pronounced De Rouse dead. The body was then removed to the De Rouse home, 675 West Horatio street, last night.

The garage had not been tightly closed while De Rouse was working, it is believed, and when the Regent called attention to the danger of working over an automobile in a closed garage of small dimensions, he said that deaths from gasoline fumes absorbed in this manner are becoming alarmingly frequent. A number of these small garages are owned by Greeks who render services of transportation.

The dead railroad man is survived by a widow and one daughter, Miss Jeanne De Rouse. The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon.

## 1916 GREATEST YEAR FOR BUILDING IN CITY

Cost of Operations Estimated at \$49,896,570—Month of December Showed Big Strides

The estimated cost of all buildings for which permits were issued in the month of December, according to William Gandy, of the Bureau of Building Inspection, was \$4,466,865. In comparison with last month this is an increase of \$1,098,916. The estimated cost for which permits were issued during the entire year of 1916 was \$19,882,570.

In comparison with 1915 this is an increase of \$10,452,445. The following table shows the number of permits issued, the character and total cost of all work during the year:

Character	Permits Issued	Cost
Buildings 1 story	1,194	\$1,474,000
Buildings 2 stories	1,194	2,969,012
Buildings 3 stories	27	19,290
Tenement houses	4	1,200,000
Business houses	39	20
Manufacturing	161	2,515,200
Warehouses	27	3,027,410
Garages	29	1,667,900
Workshops	29	1,260,200
Stables	51	2,881,215
Garages, stable houses	18	400,000
Stables, stable houses	21	1,443,125
Industrial buildings	8	2,300,000
Residential buildings	1,422	2,550,296
Mechanics' workshops	171	3,455,215
Homes	251	2,900,000
Shops	145	47,925
Total	5,838	45,896,570

According to the estimated cost of the work, the year of 1916 was the largest in the history of the Bureau of Building Inspection, which means the greatest building year that Philadelphia has ever seen.

## TRAFFIC CIRCUIT PLANS ONLY PUT OFF BY MAYOR

Legal Reasons and Fear of Impairing Borrowing Capacity Hold Up \$25,000,000 Project

Instead of being definitely abandoned, as was first understood, the plans for the \$25,000,000 central traffic circuit have only been postponed by Mayor Smith for legal reasons. The Mayor may not put them off forever, it would seem, several years before he would favor placing the proposed circuit on the city plan and thereby impair the borrowing capacity of the city.

In spite of the objections of the Mayor, which were based upon a motion of City Solicitor Collier, John H. Rankin, attorney to the committee of the comprehensive plans committee and chairman of the subcommittee on the traffic circuit, announced that the committee's activity would not be lessened.

### Baby Found on Doorstep

An abandoned baby, about two months old, wrapped carefully in rather expensive blankets and livery, was found last night on the front porch of the home of John M. Wyly, 5232 Spruce street, in New York. The baby's clothing was this note: "Please take care of this baby. She is a nice baby. Her mother is sick and her father is out of work. We are unable to care for her."

### Funeral of Mrs. L. A. T. Strawbridge

Mrs. Irene Anna Thomas Strawbridge will be buried today in St. Thomas's Episcopal Churchyard, Whittemore, following funeral services in New York. She died Sunday at Saranac, N. Y. She was married last August to Welsh Strawbridge, clubman and athlete, in Rutherfordton, N. C. Strawbridge was the daughter of Edward Thomas, a wealthy Chicago business man.

### George Krouse

George Krouse, fifty-seven years old, of 1433 Howard street, died suddenly last night from heart disease. He went to bed at 9 o'clock, and a short time later complained of being ill. He asked his wife to get him a glass of water and when she returned he was dead.

## Deaths

**FINNEGAN**—Dec. 30, WILLIAM, husband of late Christina Atwell, aged 52. Relatives and friends invited to funeral. Wed., 1 p.m. 19th Street, between 23rd and 24th Streets, New York.

**FORTIN**—Dec. 30, ERICH FREDERIC, husband of Irene Marie Fisher, aged 22. Relatives and friends invited to funeral. Wed., 2 p.m. 40th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues, New York.

**FREYHELD**—Dec. 30, DAVID, son of David and Anna Freyheld, 22, of 28th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues, New York.

**GARBER**—Dec. 30, HOWARD, husband of Blanche Nichols, 22, of 10th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues, New York.

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